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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hong Kong/China

DATE DISTR. 24 Oct. 1950

SUBJECT 1. Offer of Telephone wire, Hong Kong
2. Metco Shipments to Shanghai
25X1A

NO. OF PAGES 2

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- On 14 October 1950 William LEONG (LIANG Chen-tung - 梁震東), general manager of the Man Lee Lung (萬利隆) Development Company, Des Voeux Road, Hong Kong, and also manager of Ta T'ung (大通) Steamship, was offering for sale seven million feet of telephone wire suitable for military field telephones. It is alleged that LEONG is able to export anything, including arms and ammunition, from Hong Kong without difficulty.
- On 14 October 1950 Lucy LIANG was investigating the market values of certain stocks of spinning and refrigerating machinery owned by the Metropolitan Commercial Company (Metco) and stored in Hong Kong, with a view to selling these stocks to the Chinese Communist authorities in Canton. These goods were originally ordered by Metco for the Korea Commercial Company (Chosŏn Sangsa)*, North Korea.
- On 15 October 1950 the SS EASTERN VENTURE** was due to depart from Hong Kong for Shanghai with a cargo including 10 trucks and miscellaneous machinery consigned by Charles CHEONG***, and the following goods consigned by the Universal Development Company****: 1,000 tons of sugar, 800 tons of iron bars, 2,120 tons of sulphur powder, 380 tons of caustic soda, 123 tons of used gunny sacks, 120 tons of potassium chlorate, 100 tons of sheet rubber, 100 tons of aniline oil; miscellaneous chemicals, including citric acid, erichroma tare supra, glacial acetic acid, and sodium bichromate; 476 sheets mild steel plate, each sheet 4 feet by 8 feet by 3/16 inches, totaling 50 tons; 5 tons of mixed galvanized and black iron pipes, 5 tons of spring steel bars and copper sheets, 6 tons of brass wire, 1 ton of automobile parts; 4 tons of brass coils, brass sheets, and steel bars; and 15 tons of wool tops.
- All the cargo of the EASTERN VENTURE was consigned to Metco, Shanghai, but it was leaving Hong Kong under various false consignor names.
- Some of the cargo had been loaded from the dangerous goods anchorage.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 10 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2003

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6. War and detention risks were covered by Wallem Lambert Brother, Limited, insurance.
7. The SS INCHMULL was expected to leave for Shanghai soon after the middle of October 1950 with additional cargo consigned by Universal Development Company to Metco, Shanghai.**

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